

ABRPT. END OF A WILL CONTEST.

All legal threats on the part of contestants been mentioned to the court.

Marguerite Motinger died, leaving an estate of over \$100,000. Her will, which was executed on March 16, 1885, left the bulk of her estate to the children of Mrs. Barbara Moretto, her nurse. It was contested by Barbara Moretto, Henry Nasslau, and others, nephews and nieces on the usual grounds. The probate court returned the will, and the contestants were given an intimate interview with Mrs. Motinger, who did not like them, and that she gave her money to those she thought most deserving.

The case was then before Surrogate Benson Johnson. Frederick L. Conforti for the will introduced the suggestion that threats had been made against the contestants, and the contestants that if the case was not settled out of court some testimony reflecting on the character of the contestants would be admitted.

He characterized this as in the nature of blackmail, and thought that it was proper that the court should be informed of it. The contestants wanted to withdraw their threats, but he was told that the remarks did not refer to him at all. He recrossed there was a consultation among the contestants, and they agreed to withdraw. Conforti stated that he was satisfied from the examination of the subscribing witnesses that the will had been properly executed, and that the contestants wanted to withdraw the threats and influence, and that the contest would be withdrawn.

Surrogate Benson permitted the will to go to probate.

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